

CLAIMS

1. A keypad comprising:
 - a set of switches;
 - a set of key elements each capable of being moved by a user so as to operate a respective switch; and
 - a display device, the display pattern of which can be varied under the control of a display controller, and arranged so as to be capable of propagating two or more patterns of light from at least some of the key elements;whereby indicia may be displayed from the key elements and the displayed indicia varied under the control of the display controller.
2. A keypad as claimed in claim 1, wherein the display device is in the form of a flexible film.
3. A keypad as claimed in claim 2, wherein the key elements are interconnected by the flexible film.
4. A keypad as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein each key element comprises an outer pad for actuation by a user, and the display device is located between each outer pad and the respective switch.
5. A keypad as claimed in claim 4, wherein each outer pad is transparent.
6. A keypad as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the display device is a light-emitting display device.
7. An electronic device including a keypad as claimed in any preceding claim and the said display controller.

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8. An electronic device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the display controller is arranged to, in a first mode, cause the display device to display a first set of indicia from each of the key elements and, in a second mode, display a second set of indicia from each of the key elements.

9. An electronic device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first mode is a numeric input mode and the first set of indicia are numeric indicia, and the second mode is an alphabetic input mode and the first set of indicia are alphabetic indicia.

10. An electronic device as claimed in claim 9, wherein in the first and second modes the indicia displayed on each key is indicative of the character that would be input on pressing the key.

11. An electronic device as claimed in claim 10, wherein in the second mode the character that would be input on pressing the key is dependent on the number of times the key has been pressed within a predetermined time period of each previous such press without the pressing of another of the keys.

12. A keypad substantially as herein described with reference to figures 2 and 3 of the accompanying drawings.

13. An electronic device substantially as herein described with reference to figures 2 and 3 of the accompanying drawings.